THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
D STUART DODGE, D D., PRESIDENT
CHARLES L. THOMPSON, D.D., SECRETARY
HARVEY C. OLIN, TREASURER

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT
M. JOSEPHINE PETRIE SECRETARY
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
MRS. F. S. BENNETT, PRESIDENT
MISS JULIA FRASER, SECRETARY
MRS. M. J. GILDERSLEEVE, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
MISS V. M. WHITE, ACTING TREASURER

July 25, 1911.

My dear Mrs. Bennett:-

Your document is just here. You poor thing! To think of you having to sit down and write so many pages! I very much appreciate the time spent, and advice given, and really not one sentence is unnecessary for this work. Tell your husband that if he scolds about your writing such long letters to the office.

There is a letter for Miss Fraser this morning from Dr. J. Ross Stevenson saying they will try and get the money for Mt. Vernon, but he thinks "$4500. a rather large sum to add to what has already been expended there. Not anticipating so great an expenditure before Mrs. Langdon went abroad, she promised to give $1000. toward the proposed enlargement." He will try and secure the rest, but evidently does not heartily approve.

Miss Fraser's mail is very light but I have not been able to give even a note to Miss Fish thus far by way of acknowledgment of the letters received (except the little letter to you) as she says Miss Fraser left her so much to do; and she also says the mail is almost entirely personal. I was glad to have you stand by me in the matter of that manuscript, etc. I have enjoyed reading yours on Alaska, and am sending a copy to-day (Miss Anna C.) to Miss Anderson, who returns to St. Lawrence Island sailing from Seattle the thirtieth. I wonder if you wouldn't like to write her just a little note, address to 219 Belmont North, Seattle, Washington. So far as I know, she goes back alone, and under the Government; but says that no matter under whose authority she is, so far as earthly organizations are concerned, she will endeavor to be an embassador of our Master, and urges that we pray often for her. I think she would very much appreciate a little word from you before sailing. She sent me some of her curios and they are real treasures to me, and I can see a good many missionary speeches in them. Miss Upham met her and had told me she would send me some of these things if she returned to St. Lawrence Island.

I have had word from both Mrs. Wiber and Mrs. Waid at Northfield, but

they say nothing whatever of the attendance, nor value of the conference.

Now for your two questions, and firstly in regard to the Freedmen's work; but let your correspondence go, dear lady, until your vacation time (!) is passed.

In the majority of presbyteries there is a Freedmen's secretary, and many of these present the work to the young people's societies. My instructions have always been to the young people's secretary that she should not handle the Freedmen's work unless instructed to do so by her presbyterial officer. Of course she is very soon so instructed, but in many of the presbyteries she does not do this work, it being done entirely by the Freedmen's secretary, and this Freedmen's secretary is always instructed from her headquarters to appeal to all organizations.

I think it would be a good thing to get Mrs. Storer's ruling on all of this matter. They certainly have no right to two secretaries in every presbytery, and it is this if a Freedmen's secretary and a young people's secretary are both urging this work. I do not know that we have anything on our Minutes, or in the correspondence,to show where the line shall be drawn; but I will ask Mrs. Baker if she will try and look it up in the old Minutes. There is one thing right along this line, and that is that if the woman's department of the Freedmen's Board is given as a part of our work, and put on our letter heads, and all that sort of thing, there certainly should be some action in our Standing Rules in regard to the limit of their work, or their appealing to our societies. Just don't go to writing letters about it right away, but revolve all this in your mind and see what we can work out. Of course the question to Mrs. Storer could be put, and this would give us something to work from.

I think now I shall have to come in on Tuesday in order to go over things with Mrs. Gildersleeve. Miss Fraser said she ought to be back here the 31st, but she will just locate herself in Westfield at that time,and I think it would be better for me to take the extra off at the other end,if necessary,and come in here August

first. By the way, I have not told you the latest, which is that Flo and I are going to Porto Rico for August, sailing the fifth. We will only be on the Island thirteen days, but it will give her a chance to see things and she can go about more than I shall care to, for she has no fear of the heat. She was anxious to go to Bermuda after the Italy trip was given up, but I thought Porto Rico would mean much more, and we would know exactly when we could go and come from there. Bermuda is more indefinite on the return trip.

Yesterday was a horrid one here, but to-day it is just simply great. I almost forgot the letter you enclosed from Miss Lucy Porter. There is no address, but I take it she is from Kansas, and, according to an old habit, turned at once to the Board's report. I find there are two Porters, ministers in Kansas, and from neither church have we had more than $40. in contributions -about this amount from the women's organizations, nothing from Sunday School or young people. Miss Porter's letter, however, is most attractive, but I do not think we are justified in employing some one else to do literary work when Miss Crowell is here for that definite purpose, and at big expense to us. There are plenty of things to be done, and a young woman with life could roll them off, but you know as well as I do that we do not get as much practical help from Miss Crowell as is needed here. There is not enough of that kind of work in my department to keep one person busy all the time, but I should think a young woman like this could work in something of that kind either with some field work or the young women's work. There will be more and more of it needed for that special line.

Miss Fraser is taking up Mrs. Potter again, and wished I had talked with her at Silver Bay for the purpose of arguing her into coming here. Miss White, from Summit, called for you on the telephone and I gave your address. I wondered if you had written her of that Miss Gardner of whom I spoke. This letter from Miss Porter appeals to me tremendously, and it certainly would not hurt to look up such a girl.

Perhaps you have set the ball in motion already.

Please do not groan over the length of this. I have rambled on with and without interruptions. I have that book "Gail Hollister's Heritage" from the Methodist Society - the story recommended, which works in the organization of their Woman's Board - but have not had a chance to read it, and will not send it to you. They would not buy it in the literature department, nor one or two others things I have suggested, as Miss Rue had given no permission to do anything of that kind; so I bought what I wanted and paid for it with my own money. Some of these things make you dead tired.

Have not heard from Miss White in reply to my letter.

With much love,

Very sincerely,

Josephine Petree

P.S. I find this action of September 17, 1901: "Our secretary was authorized to write the Freedmen's secretary in regard to her sending out appeals to young people's societies which are not auxiliary to the Woman's Board - such appeals being sent out with letter head of Woman's Board."

In February 1906 a policy was adopted, but it really does not help out at all when it comes to a matter of this kind. It suggests "the election of synodical and presbyterial secretaries for Freedman whose duty shall be to carry out plans for stimulating interest and gifts, it being distinctly understood that such plans most first be submitted for approval to the Executive Committee of the respective organization - synodical or presbyterial. . . . The election of secretaries for Freedmen in local societies is not recommended. . . . Conference in relation to synodical apportionment including all advance and extra be held between the executive officers of the Woman's Board and the secretary of the Freedmen's department of the Woman's

Board in order that proper proportions in respective fields may be sustained."

In the Minutes of October 1902 there is the following: "Several letters were read from workers throughout the country complaining that Mrs. Palmer is sending appeals and letters to local officers of young people's societies, thereby violating her agreement to make all appeals through the secretaries for Freedmen. After discussion Mrs. Pingry was instructed to write to Mrs. Palmer asking for a conference at the earliest time she will be in New York City."

Board of Missions for Freedmen
Of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
Rev. S. J. FISHER, D. D., President.
Rev. E. P. COWAN, D. D. { Cor. Secretary and Treasurer.
513 Bessemer Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Woman's Department of Freedmen's Board
Mrs. S. L. STORER, Gen. Sec.
ROOM 513 BESSEMER BUILDING

Woman's Board of Home Missions
Of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
Mrs. F. S. BENNETT, President.
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City

Pittsburgh, Pa. Sept. 30, 1911.

Mrs. F. S. Bennett,

156-5th Ave., New York City.

My dear Mrs. Bennett,-

I do not know that I have been overstepping bounds. I have only been doing as Mrs. Boggs did when I came into the work and I do not know of any agreement between the Woman's Board and our Freedmen Board with regard to appeals to Y. P. Societies. I have just asked Dr. Cowan and he does not recall any such agreement. Will you kindly tell me when, or explain about it.

Our Freedmen Board stands in the same relation to the Y. P. Societies as the Home Board, I should think, or, do they not expect at all to present Freedmen work to their societies?

In many Presbyterial societies the Freedmen secretary will write us that the Young People prefer to present <u>all</u> the mission work to their Y. P. Societies, and the Y. P. secretaries frequently write to us asking about our work so as to be able to present it, and this has always been left to the Presbyterial Executive Committee to decide who shall present our Freedmen work in their presbytery. Sometimes they prefer that the Woman's Freedmen Secretary present it in the Y. P. Society, and where this is done, the Y. P. secretary does not do it, and I have never desired or instructed two sets of secretaries to do the same work. I always instruct our Presbyterial Freedmen Secretary to arrange between themselves who shall present our Freedmen work in their Y. P. Societies. Our General Assembly recommends that every Y. P. Society and Sabbath School make one contribution each year to our Board of Missions for Freedmen, and this

both Synod's and each Presbyterial

is what we are working for, and I did not know we were making any mistakes, and I will be glad to know what societies have been complaining, and just what their complaint is. I do not wish to make mistakes and always want our relations to be cordial.

Our Board of Missions for Freedmen is the arm of the Church to give the Gospel to the negroes, and I have always supposed that we had a right to ask some support from each of its organizations. We never want to interfere with any other contributions, and always make it plain that as Freedmen is one of the mission Boards of the Church, we ask an interest in their sympathy and gifts.

I hope I have made things clear, I have been interrupted so many times that my letter is not just what I would like. I am to leave on Monday for a trip through New York state, all of October. Miss Barr is already away on her trip in the west, so I am exceedingly busy, but there is another matter which I feel I must mention to you. There have complaints come from several societies saying we have not given them credit for all the money which they have sent for our Freedmen work. This has occurred at times for months. I wrote Miss White in June about it, and also talked about it at the Assembly, to Miss Eaton. She said they would try to look up these things and see where the mistakes belonged. I have never had an answer from Miss White, not anything definite about these things. It is quite embarrassing to us, as some of these secretaries say they have receipts from the Woman's Board for money sent, and blame us for not acknowledging it in the annual report.

In a letter from Miss Barr this morning, she said a society in Dodge City, Kas. said they had sent us money which we have never acknowledged. This has occurred in a number of her meetings and is, to say the least, embarrassing. In one presbyterial, we report over a Hundred Dollars short of the amount they say they sent for our work, and that they have receipts from the treasurer of the Woman's Board

for this. Another society says we failed in over Fifty Dollars credit to them, and they want to know the reason why. Our bookkeepers have carefully gone over every statement received from New York and do not find these amounts which they state they have sent and hold receipts for. You can see the position in which this places us, we can only credit the amounts sent us on the statements from the treasurer of the Woman's Board. So there is a mistake somewhere, and the amounts mean a great deal to us, and I do not feel that we can let these go without looking into the matter.

I have been anxiously awaiting a letter from Miss White thinking she could explain it. Some of the societies are quite disturbed about it, and we are not able to explain where the mistakes occur. I know the financial reports get a good deal mixed and I have no doubt societies do not always remember to designate plainly "For Freedmen" but some of these secretaries who are complaining say they hold Miss White's receipts for Freedmen money, so I cannot understand it. Our Board has suggested that while I am in New York state, I go over to the city and talk the matter over.

I have been wanting to write and ask what you would suggest about this. I do not want to be a trouble and yet we are placed in the position that we must give some sort of a definite answer to these many inquiries from societies, as they cannot understand why we do not receive their money. If the presbyterial treasurers have been at fault, I think this should be known and explained to them. It is really becoming a serious matter of anxiety to us, and I have been wanting to talk with you about it.

I had my vacation in July and have been busy all through August and September, but I start out on this speaking tour in splendid health, for which I am truly thankful.

I hope you are feeling much better and ready for the campaign.

Sincerely, Susan L. Stores

WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y.

MRS. DARWIN R. JAMES, HONORARY PRESIDENT
MRS. F. S. BENNETT, PRESIDENT
MISS JULIA FRASER, SECRETARY
MRS. M. J. GILDERSLEEVE, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
MISS V. MAY WHITE, TREASURER
MISS M. JOSEPHINE PETRIE, YOUNG PEOPLE'S SECRETARY
MRS. DELOS EDWIN FINKS, EDITOR HOME MISSION MONTHLY

MRS. SUSAN L. STORER, SEC. FREEDMEN'S DEPT.
518 BESSEMER BUILDING, PITTSBURGH, PA.

Dictated. New York, October 3, 1911.

Mrs. F. S. Bennett,

Upper Montclair, N. Jersey.

My dear Mrs. Bennett:-

I am particularly sorry that these matters relating to gifts for the Freedmen's Board have caused so much trouble, and I am also troubled that it was not possible for you to see me in the summer when I spoke about my feeling that Miss Barr was entirely too aggressive.

For months there have been matters relating to the offerings of the Freedmen's Board and Miss White requested that I attend to these matters personally, and while to us it would seem as though they were of such a nature as to take only a day or two to adjust, it seems to have taken months for the treasurers to admit that they made any errors.

I will not go into details here as to how many matters I have already adjusted, but in every case our treasurers have been pleasant, but they do not like the letters they have received from Miss Barr.

The trouble arises from the fact that the treasurers have indicated in their annual reports certain amounts for the Freedmen which that Board has not received, and we have asked the treasurers to give us the dates on which the special offerings were sent to us,

their replies have been - "We have sent the offerings to New York."

The reports from Steubenville presbyterial do not agree with our books. Mrs. Nicola has spent several hours comparing figures with me, and I finally wrote the treasurer and offered to send all of her reports back that she might help us trace matters. In fact, I sent back two to prove to her that the amount of the check was not what she claimed it to be. I wrote to her that if she would get in communication with the cashier of her bank and send us word that the check was issued for a certain amount, we would present it to our bank and have the matter adjusted. Our accounts balanced and, of course, you know we are right, but I never think it wise to tell a treasurer that she has made a mistake, but we usually ask for special information.

In many cases the treasurers will place money for scholarships in the Asheville Home Industrial, Concord and Dorland Institute on the Freedmen's sheet, and while we call their attention to the matter, I know that some of these amounts are included in their annual report for the Freedmen's Board.

It certainly is unfortunate, but the treasurer of Steubenville presbyterial has held office for, I think, about twenty years, and in this time I do not think she has ever had more than two reports correct. She was very much upset over Miss Barr's letter, for she felt that her honesty was in question. In her reply to my letter, she admitted that she made a mistake and would send the money to us later. Now this is a matter that we cannot force, but matters

certainly have not been neglected. At the Annual Meeting in Atlantic City I talked matters over with Mrs. Storer, and there were many little things she admitted that she did not understand. We also talked about the Steubenville reports, and an officer from this presbyterial happened to be with us and stated that the treasurer was honest, but very careless. We have written to Mrs. Storer and to Miss Barr both that we wished them to report to us any such matters that came to their attention, as we are always glad to adjust matters to the satisfaction of societies. I told Mrs. Storer that we would not write until there was something definite to report.

When we hear from the treasurer of Kittanning presbyterial we will also report on that matter.

Whenever there is any money sent to us that we question, we always give the Freedmen's Board the benefit of the doubt.

I am enclosing one or two letters, which I would like returned for our files when you have finished with them. I am sorry to have you see Miss Barr's letter.

Sincerely yours,

Florence E. Eaton

E/N.

In the Fall of 1912 I asked that all actions relating to the Freedmen's Board work in its relation to the Woman's Board be found and listed. Accompanying this are the results. At the same time I sought for any old printed material that might throw light on the question. Very little was found, but that little is here. The accompanying notes by me have been attached to this from time to time as items have come to me.

M.K.B.

LETTER FROM MRS. STORER-------Oct. 1912.

"Did you ever find out what relation our Freedmen's Department has to your Woman's Board?----------I just found a copy of "Queries" lately gotten out by the Woman's Board, and as I read it over and came to the question about the Freedmen, from that nswer I inferred that there is not much relation. It seems to me that a little more expplanation would have been most helpful to the whole ~~xxxxxxxx~~ constituency as so few comparatively really do understand why the Freedmen money does go to New York, or that your Board does not disburse this fund. Of course I do not come in touch with a very large number of societies and I have to explain to them , and ~~yx~~ your Board receives many letters which have to be referred to us, and still people think the Home Board works among the Freedmen. It seems to me that in"Queries" would be one good place to clarify things. It is simple when explained but this has to be kept before people. "

The matter was not further gone into in "Queries" as there does seem to be some misunderstanding as to the relation that exists. Not as to the receipt and disbursement of funds but as to the relation that the Freedmen's Department has to the various local societies. Consult the officers of the Woman's Board as to the questions that arise in their departments.

M.K.B.

FREEDMEN.

It would seem wise to incorporate some statement relative to the relation that this Board has to the Woman's Board of Home Missions.

NOTE- That the stationery used at Pittsburgh says, "Woman's Department of Freedmen's Board" while on the stationery of the Woman's Board of Home Missions appears, " Freedmen's Department" the inference being " of Woman's Board". This should be clear as the nomenclature represents a quite different relationship.

NOTE- That there is much misunderstanding as to the relationship held by the Freedmen's Board to the various organizations of the local churches and the officers of the Woman's Board of Home Missions are constantly complaining of the too zealous activity of that body in writing to, and asking gifts from the local organizations. This matter should be definitely adjusted between the two Boards as it is unseemly to appear before the societies in this attitude and this has been the subject of much harsh criticism outside.

Note- Parallel with this is the question as to whether there is a per cent of gifts to be recommended for the socieities in giving to Home Missions and to Freedmen. M.K.B-

Since above was written I have talked with Mrs. Storer a few moments over the teleph one. The impression left on my mind was that she felt the proper name was " Woman's department of the Freedmen's Board." That seems to me the correct title and that stationery etc should be made to correspond.

M.K.B.

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MISS THEODORA FINKS, EDITOR HOME MISSION MONTHLY
M. C. ALLABEN, A. B. SUPT OF SCHOOLS
MRS. SUSAN L. STORER, SEC. FREEDMEN'S DEPT.
518 BESSEMER BUILDING, PITTSBURGH, PA.

Notes made by Miss Wheeler
1912

I am sorry not to find more definite legislation upon the matters referred to by Mrs. Bennett.

Many of the excerpts from the Woman's Board Minutes show by implication only its relationship to the Freedmen's Department, but it seemed best to omit nothing that might be even remotely helpful. I have not access to the Minutes of the Freedmen's Board.

The Assembly Minutes, both in Reports of the Freedmen's Board and Reports of the Standing Committee upon Freedmen show an interchange of the terms "Freedmen's Department of Woman's Board" and "Woman's Department" of the Freedmen's Board. The former term is used every year until 1900; the latter most frequently, but not invariably, after that date.

Referring to the Home Mission Monthly I find that Mrs. Coulter, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Boggs and Mrs. Storer give "Reports of the Freedmen's Department" of the Woman's Executive Committee or Woman's Board, excepting in 1903, when Mrs. Boggs, Acting Secretary, presents the "Nineteenth Annual Report of the Woman's Department". This report mentions the "Ladies Committee". That of 1905 states that this "Freedmen's Committee" (as it is there called) "with the secretaries, constitute the Woman's Department of the Freedmen's Board, and also the Freedmen's Department of

the Woman's Board".

In regard to the proportion of money that societies should give to the Freedmen, there is no record of any action or advisement by the Woman's Board. The General Assembly through its special committee recommended that undesignated funds in the churches be distributed:

1886-1894	(Foreign Missions	33⅓%
	(Home Missions	31⅓%
	(Freedmen	5%
1895-1910	(Foreign Missions	33⅓%
	(Home Missions	31⅓%

and the other five Boards, including Freedmen, 6⅔% each.

These recommendations however would seem to have no direct bearing upon the apportionments of women's societies. Mrs. Gildersleeve states that the Woman's Board has never made any official recommendation concerning this, but that several Synodical Societies (Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska to her personal knowledge) recommend 3/5 for Foreign Missions, 2/5 for Home Missions, and 1/5 for Freedmen. Colorado recommends the apportionment of 5/10 to Foreign Missions, 4/10 to Home Missions and 1/10 to Freedmen. The North Pacific Board apportions 4/8 to Foreign Missions, 3/8 to Home Missions and 1/8 to Freedmen.

I shall be glad to make any further research that may be suggested.

R. H. W.

Sound Beach, Conn.,
July 15, 1913.

My dear Mrs. Storer:-

Your most kind letter was received and I hasten to answer it before I leave for my conference work at Northfield, where I am to plague the populace with a study class on "The New America". I can well imagine it has been hot in Pittsburgh and hope it will stay "cooled off" until your vacation time arrives. Try to have a real rest for I know how heavily your heart is burdened for your great and needy cause.

At 156 Miss Fish and Mr. Allaben are in charge, while Miss Petrie mixes a little vacation and several conferences, while Mrs. Gildersleeve attends Northfield and has a little vacation and Mrs. Potter vacates after two heavy conferences. August and September will see the others back so the Treasurer and Superintendent can rest. Mrs Crane and I are in and out every week, helping when we can for, as yet, neither President nor Secretary is in sight, though the Committee is busily searching. It makes added burdens for our officers and much care, but all seems to be going well and that is a help.

I was sorry not to have had a chance for a talk with you at Atlanta, but they were crowded days, were they not? So I will try, from what knowledge I have, necessarily incomplete, to answer your questions.

1st: The standing rules are being printed and will be sent out in August. No one has had a copy yet because of that and I am sure you are included in the list which Mrs. Gildersleeve has. I, of course, as you know, supposed you had seen the preliminary copy and understood Mrs. Bennett to say the idea expressed in the paragraph had met with your approval, else I should have personally consulted you. In the papers handed to me, I find the notes I am sending to you, with the request that you return them to me as they must needs be kept in the file. They are my only information on the subject, but from them and my own knowledge I judge several things:

From the first, your department has rested under the Board of Freedman. Your own leaflets and the statements of your reports seem to prove that. They have administered your friends, met your deficits, directed your schools, chosen your Secretaries. Even your Committee in Pittsburgh has been chosen by them and not even recorded with our Woman's Board. Our whole attitude has been that of counsel and co-operation, not administration.

2nd: Such being the fact, the Woman's Board has, virtually, simply carried out the recommendations of General Assembly in the very beginning and as listed on page 2 of your leaflet, "Beginnings of the Freedman's Dept.", and have added the courtesy of the April number of Home Mission Monthly, the recognition of your Secretary on Stationery and in lists of officers presented at Annual Meeting.

3rd: Carelessnesss of designation has led, as the accompanying notes indicate, to great confusion both in your reports and ours, and to the apparent anomaly of the Woman's Board having a Department which in reality the Board of Freedmen possesses.

4th: To clear the situation, it seemed better in these rules to use the real official designation of Department and Secretary without in any way impairing the relationship authorized from the beginning or the cordial cooperation promised for the future.

Whether in the judgment of your Board this condition should continue, or whether they would prefer to receive direct the funds now cared for by our treasury might well be a matter of conference. But, of course, all of us are acting now under the ruling of our higher Court and their action would be necessary in any change.

The increasing burdens on our treasury and the detail of such funds, of course brings up such questions in the minds of our administration committee.

In trying to give as concise and clear a business statement as possible, I trust my letter will not seem hard or unsympathetic. Dear Mrs. Storer, you know me too well to impute such characteristics. I am sure you, like the rose of the proverb, will be just as dear and sweet to all of us, by whatever name you are called.

I shall be most glad to answer any questions or give any information.

With all cordial regards.

Ever yours,

Mrs. Susan L. Storer,
Sec. Freedman's Dept.,
513 Bessemer Bldg.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Board of Mission for Freedmen
Of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
Rev. S. J. FISHER, D.D., President.
Rev. E. P. COWAN, D.D. Cor. Secretary and Treasurer.
Rev. J. M. GASTON, Associate Secretary.

Woman's Board of Home Missions
Of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
Miss DORA M. FISH, Treasurer.
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Woman's Department of the Board of Missions for Freedmen
MRS. S. L. STORER, GEN. SEC.
513 BESSEMER BUILDING
PITTSBURGH, PA.

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Nov 17th 14

My Dear Mrs Bennett,

Thank you over and over for your clear good letter. It was balm to my tired spirit, for I have been under unusual pressure this fall and not in condition for it as I always have been. but I am hoping now the worst is over. Miss Barr has been away so much and then our Board concluded to move part of the establishment. Dr Cowan still retains the same room. but three rooms were moved and it was a big job just to think about and having hanging over me. but we got through the last of last week and feel clean and have more room and are located more conveniently so we are feeling settled again and we still have "513." Rev Gaston changed to 515. I to 516. our book-keepers have 513. Dr Cowan 514. I send you a crude pen sketch so you can know how we are even if you didn't get in to visit us. we were all sorry that you could not come. We all love our "little Mother" here very much.

Your kind words were very sweet to me. and I wish it could have been that we could have worked together. but I feel that you will all enjoy Mrs Larimer and that possibly in this age of changes. things may come around that we will have just Missions the Lords work. and the various branches

get the whole church to feel their responsibility for this needy field, and to do this work would be the work we kept before the people. Please ever remember taking up so much of your time. I trust we can still have some pleasant time. With much love yours sincerely Susan L. Storer.

or departments. A person remarked the other day to me, on hearing that the Womans Board was taking out a charter and our Home Presbyterial society here also. "Well we will soon have a Womans Presbyterian church and a mans-church. (This remark was from a minister.) I said no. the men cannot get along without the Women - So I fear not his surmises will come true -

A third pressure on me was in finding some one who would come in here - and heart and soul give herself to this cause - and I am glad to say that Mrs Larimer will do it. It seems to be of Gods leading - and I am so glad that she was just ready when we needed her. A widow without any home duties depending upon her - living with her Mother here in the city - and wondering what the Lord would now give her to do - which I broached the subject to her - soon after I saw you - she told me that since coming back to her dear old mother - she had been praying for some definite thing for her to do - as she could not be idle - so she was able to take the matter under prayerful consideration at once - and all things seemed to point this way - so she is now installed at a desk in our new room we tell her she was the cause of our moving - as my former room was not large enough for three -

I cannot tell you just how I feel about leaving - the twelve years have been very happy ones and very busy too - I have given my whole self to it. allowing nothing to take its place in my time or thought. so just how I will feel to give it all up. I do not quite know. but I am asking God to give work yet that can be able to do - for I do not expect to be an idler - I have been busy all my life. If I become disabled - so that I must sit and wait. I'll pray for patience - While it will be a great change for me I will just live a day at a time and not worry - As soon as Mrs Larimer learns the work. I am ready to quietly - I tap aside - Miss Barr will be not speaking all we can get for we do want to

Woman's Department of Freedmen's Board

Board of Missions for Freedmen
Of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
REV. S. J. FISHER, D. D., PRESIDENT.
REV. E. P. COWAN, D. D. { COR. SECRETARY AND TREASURER.
REV. J. M. GASTON, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

MRS. S. L. STORER, GEN. SEC.
ROOM 513 BESSEMER BUILDING

Woman's Board of Home Missions
Of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.
MRS. F. S. BENNETT, PRESIDENT.
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

PITTSBURGH, PA. July 18th

My Dear Mrs Waid

Thank you so much for sending all that reading- It- was most- interesting- for much of it- was entirely new to me- I came in here at- a time of great- pressure of work- and I never had time to even hear of former doings- for we never have time for that.

I read it- all over to Dr Cowan yesterday- some things he knew- some he did not-

I did call Mrs Bennett up over the phone when I was in New York last- March I think- she said she had not been able to look into things- of which she did not know- and had passed it- into other hands- She asked me what- I thought my title was- I said I was sure I was the "Women's Dept- of the Freedmen Board-" as I work all my instructions and work here in this office- and what else I might- be I didn't know. It- has always been amusing to me this "double header"- and it- was also to other people- for Mrs Boggs or Mrs Palmer had both titles at- the head of their letter sheet- So I dropped the two- not- intending any disrespect- or dereliction of duty- but- just- to save comment- and put- the heading as you see it- now- Was I wrong in this? I didn't mean to be- It- seemed the sensible way to do- and I thought- would be less confusing to people at large- You have made it- plain to me

that my relations with the Womans Board are still the same - and I am glad of that - and I will try not to do anything in any way detrimental to the whole cause - I remember the "Beginnings" - that is - women wanted to help the Freedmen cause - and it was pretty wide spread - so the General Assembly and the "Executive Com" had committees studying the situation - and there was much discussion and some "feeling" too - but it was decided as recorded - This "Committee of ladies" Dr Cowan says was formed at Mrs Coulters suggestion - from our own Presbytery and five adjoining or five altogether - to meet here to pray for the work - and to be advisory to Mrs Coulter - she was going it single handed - and sorely felt the need of sympathizers - they have no "powers" at all in any way - but the power of prayer - They had no authority to plan or decide, but they still meet - not very regularly - here in my office - for prayer and talk over the work - and they are all loyal supporters of the Womans Board of Home Missions in all its fields -

I shall do my best to promote advancement for our Freedmen work - none need it more - but I always want to do it in the proper way - with "charity - for all malice toward none" - and I thank you most heartily for writing me so clearly - and fairly - You cannot offend me dear - for I'm not that kind - I want just a clear understanding of things - and to be loyal -

Mrs McGranahan spent a night with me this week and her daughter on their way to her home - she said she and Dr McG knew you and your husband so well - I was telling her how nicely our meeting passed off at Atlanta. You know she was president of the U P Convention, they choose a new one each year - I hope you will be our President - I am glad your force there are getting out some - and trust you will have a good time. I go to my children next month - I wish I could hear you on the New America - God be with you -

yours aff Sue L Stover

Mrs. Susan L. Storer,
513 Bessemer Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Mrs. Storer:—

I am writing you at this time that we may have a clear understanding as to the approach to young people's societies on behalf of the Freedmen. It had been our understanding of the agreement between the Woman's Board of Home Missions and the Freedmen's Board that appeals for this cause are made by the Presbyterial Freedmen Secretaries direct to the societies, and she should not enlist the services of other Presbyterial officers for this work. If she does, there are an undue proportion of such presenting the Freedmen cause.

Our Young People's Secretary here at headquarters has always understood this matter as outlined above, and has so

instructed the Presbyterial Secretaries in Young Peoples work, but we are receiving letters from various places, complaining that these Secretaries are being instructed from your Headquarters to make appeals for the Freedmen to young people's societies even in Presbyteries where there are Freedmen Secretaries already doing this.

It must be remembered that Y. P. S. C. E., Young people's societies, etc, are not auxiliary to the Woman's Board and that we do not make appeals to them except as we make joint appeals with the Home Board, through the joint Young People's Department.

I shall be very glad to hear from you when on this matter, that we may at an early date come to a clear understanding.

Trusting that the summer has been restful, and that you are returned & you work much refreshed, Dan,

Cordially yours,

held. Mrs. C. E. Coulter was then made Corresponding Secretary. The following May (1885) $3,010.58 were reported to the Assembly as contributed through Home Mission Societies. The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly:

"That in view of the success which has already attended the organization of a Woman's Department for Freedmen, under the Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions, and of the pressing demand for labor within the sphere marked out for this department, it be affectionately urged upon all the Women's Home Missionary Societies of our Church to give this work a place in their sympathies, their prayers and their benefactions."

Many societies gladly responded to this resolution; indifference to the work and, in some cases, opposition gradually disappeared. The cordial support given by the officers of the Woman's Executive Committee tended largely to this result. Early in the history of the Freedmen's Department, when the work did not seem to appeal to the women of some of the churches, the Woman's Executive Committee asked presbyterial societies to elect in each society a Secretary of the Freedmen's Department, whose duty it should be to stimulate interest and secure contributions to that part of the work, an advantage not possessed by any other department of the Home work. It was largely through these officers that local societies were reached and individuals interested. One number of the Home Mission Monthly has been given each year to the Freedmen's work without expense.

The financial growth of this department may be seen when a comparison is made of the report ten years after its organization, $39,182.43, with the report of 1907, $73,025.30. But who can compute the spiritual growth?

STATISTICAL STATEMENT FOR 1907.

Schools	115
Teachers	334
Pupils	13,345
Value School Property owned and used by Board	$673,700.00
Total Expenditure on Schools	$130,196.94
Of this amount Freedmen contributed	$57,171.64
Amount Societies contributed	$73,025.30

Each year for the last twenty-three the General Assembly has acknowledged and commended the fidelity of the workers of the Woman's Department for Freedmen, emphasizing the importance of the work and urging all the Home Missionary Societies of our church to give it a place in their sympathies, their prayers and their benefactions.

I

Preface

BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR FREEDMEN OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

File under B

Beginnings of the Freedmen's Department

FREEDMEN'S DEPARTMENT

of Womens Board of Home Missions

513 Bessemer Building, - - Pittsburgh, Pa.

MRS. V. P. BOGGS, General Secretary

A WORD OF EXPLANATION

The following account of the organization of the Freedmens Department is issued in reponse to the many inquiries received at our office concerning the relation of this branch of work to the Woman's Board of Home Missions. It is taken from the Historical Sketch of the Woman's Board, pages 25, 26 and 27, issued in 1904.

From this account it will be readily understood that the work of this department is carried on by the same authority with the same hearty endorsement as that of other branches of Woman's Work—viz. the General Assembly of our church.

That Home Missionary Societies are permitted year after year to contribute through the channel of the Home Board treasury, is due to the courtesy and loyalty of the Woman's Board, which continues year after year to receive and remit funds for the support of the Freedmen Schools.

BEGINNINGS OF THE FREEDMEN'S DEPARTMENT.

The first recorded action in the direction of organizing a Freedmen's Department appears in the minutes of the General Assembly of 1883.

"The Women of the Church have done a service of inestimable value in connection with home and foreign missions. Why should they not take hold of this great work than which none is more pressing?" Previous to this action, Mrs. R. H. Allen, the wife of the Corresponding Secretary of the Freedmen's Board, and Mrs. C. E. Coulter had done what they could to interest friends in the work so greatly needed among the negroes. After the suggestion of the Assembly an attempt was made to organize the work. The active mission workers in all parts of the country were consulted, but no plan suited to all the churches could be agreed upon. Already the Foreign and Home Missionary societies were occupying the time and absorbing the interest of the women of the church, and to form a third society seemed very undesirable, especially in the small churches. It was decided to state the difficulty to the General Assembly and ask advice. This was done, and in 1884 at Saratoga Springs, the following report of the joint Committee on Home Missions and Freedmen was unanimously adopted:

"*Whereas,* The last Assembly commended the work among the Freedmen to the sympathy and aid of the women of the Church, and urged them to take hold of it with the same spirit with which they have taken hold of other departments of church work, but suggested no plan of operation; and

"*Whereas,* There are those within the knowledge of your Committee who are willing and anxious to do what they can to carry out the wishes of the Assembly, but are in doubt as to the best mode of procedure under existing circumstances, and desire this Assembly to devise some plan of action; and

"*Whereas,* It is thought undesirable to interfere with what is now being done in other departments of church work, or to add to existing organizations; therefore,

"*Resolved* 1. That this Assembly recommends the Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions to permit such societies under its care as may desire to do so, to contribute according to their pleasure to the cause of the Freedmen, and send the results to the Woman's Executive Committee, to be forwarded to the treasurer of the Board of Missions for Freedmen.

"*Resolved,* 2. That the Board of Missions for Freedmen be directed to provide means by which the necessary information as to the needs of the Board, methods of operation, etc., can be furnished to these societies when desired; keep a separate account of what is thus acomplished and report the same to each General Assembly."

At a business meeting of the Women's Synodical Committees of Home Missions held May 23d, during the meeting of the Assembly, the following resolutions were adopted:

"*Whereas,* A memorial from a number of women having been sent to the General Assembly, asking for some plan by which they can aid in work, for the colored people of the South without forming a new organization, and the answer having been received, therefore,

"*Resolved,* 1. That if approved by the Board of Home Missions, we make a trial of the plan proposed to us by the General Assembly.

"*Resolved,* 2. That in case of such arrangement, Mrs. R. H. Allen, one of our vice-presidents, be appointed secretary of this department of the work."

The Woman's Executive Committee adopted the same resolutions at a meeting held June 2, 1884. The Board of Home Missions at a meeting held June 10th, the same year, took the following action:

"*Resolved,* That the Woman's Executive Committee be authorized to receive, transmit, and make due acknowledgment of any sums of money which they may receive for the Freedmen's cause, as empowered by the late General Assembly."

Thus authorized, the Woman's Executive Committee organized a department for work among the Freedmen, with headquarters at Pittsburgh, Pa. Mrs. R. H. Allen, General Secretary.

The Board of Missions for Freedmen, at a meeting held June 16th, cordially endorsed the foregoing resolutions and agreed to furnish necessary information, keep a separate account of all money received through this Department and report the same to each General Assembly. The way was now open for more effective work, but it was not until December 3d of that year that the first meeting of the Department was

Relation of the Freedmen's Board to organizations auxiliary to the Woman's Boards of Home and Foreign Missions. The Woman's Home Board representatives presented a statement of the past relations of the Home and Freedmen's Boards, together with several recommendations. It was voted to take up these recommendations separately.

1. "To develop interest in the work of the Woman's Department of the Freedmen's Board." The Woman's Board of Home Missions suggests the election of Synodical and Presbyterial Secretaries of Freedmen, whose duty shall be to carry out plans for stimulating interest and gifts in Woman's Missionary Societies; it being definitely understood that all such plans must first be submitted for approval to the Executive Committee of the respective organizations, Synodical and Presbyterial.

2. "Since the Woman's Board does not suggest the appointment of local secretaries for distinctive fields, such as India, Alaska, Porto Rico, etc., the election of Secretaries for Freedmen in local societies is not recommended."

It was recommended that these past actions be re-affirmed. Moved to accept the recommendation. Seconded and carried. It was recommended that young people's secretaries only shall present the work of the Freedmen's Board to their constituency. Moved to accept. Seconded and carried.

Recommended that the administrative officers of the Woman's Board of Home Missions and the Secretaries of the Woman's Department of the Freedmen's Board, consult on any proposed changes of policy. Moved to accept. Seconded and carried.

As the Woman's Department of the Freedmen's Board is a constituent part of the Board of Missions for Freedmen, a separate Board, it is recommended that local societies designate contributions for Freedmen,

such gifts to be separate and distinct from contributions to the Woman's Board of Home Missions. Moved to accept. Seconded and carried.

Recommended that the Woman's Board of Home Missions continue its present policy of devoting annually one issue of its official publication, the Home Missionary Monthly, to the presentation of the work among the Freedmen. Such issue to be without expense to the Freedmen's Board.

It is further recommended that a Home Mission field is not suggested for April meetings, but this month is left open for the presentation of this subject in the Board-meeting and to local societies. Moved to accept. Seconded and carried.

ACTIONS BEARING ON THE RELATION OF THE FREEDMEN'S BOARD

TO THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS.

1884
June 10 Board of Home Mission Report of School Work.

We recommend that the Woman's Executive Committee be authorized to receive, transmit and make due acknowledgment of any sums which they may receive for the Freedmen's Committee as empowered by the late General Assembly.

Meetings of the Woman's Executive Committee, or the Ways and Means Committee.

1885
Feb. 9 Mrs. R. H. Allen attends Executive Committee meeting. Reports that many Presbyterial societies are adopting plan to have someone in each Presbytery appointed for Freedmen work.

Apr. 6
p. 2 Report from Freedmen's Department read; moved and carried that Mrs. C. E. Coulter's appointment as Corresponding Secretary of Freedmen's Department be confirmed.

1889
June 18
p. 346 Mrs. Coulter writes--receipts have fallen off; obliged to close schools; asks contribution from the general fund of Woman's Executive Committee. Secretary and Treasurer of Home Board consulted. Committee appointed to decide.

(I find no report of this committee on minutes.)
R.H.W.

Sept. 3
p. 10

Letter from Mrs. Coulter urging that more be done for Freedmen. Mrs. Ham thought matter should be pressed upon individual societies. Mrs. Boyd said that Executive Committee was not really responsible for this work, had not the control of any part of it, as the Freedmen Department was a separate Board. Referred to a Committee.

(I find no report from this committee. R.H.W.)

1900
Dec. 4th

Mrs. F. D. Palmer, Secretary of the Freedmen's Board, was asked to give some report of her work. She spoke of her purpose in coming to New York, which is to present to individuals an appeal for an endowment fund for Biddle University as well as to speak of the general work before Societies. This special appeal is not to come to the Societies and is only to be given in addition to regular offerings, not to interfere in any way with the general work.

[illegible] do not receive their share of church receipts, Mrs. James suggests friendly letter to Mrs. Coulter showing large proportion going to Freedmen's Bureau (sic).

1894
Jan. 2

Mrs. Satterfield of Scotia Seminary writes that Philadelphia ladies were to assist them with hospital; asks if Scotia have not sanction of Woman's Board. Mrs. Pierson has replied: "We are not acquainted with project; plans regularly presented through Mrs. Coulter are always endorsed."

1896
Sep. 29
p. 75

Copy of "Freedmen's Bulletin" has been sent to Mrs. Finks. When we agreed to receive money for Freedmen, it was understood that nothing should be published without sanction of Woman's Executive Committee. This publication might be something of an infringement on the province of the Home Mission Monthly which presents the Freedmen work with that of the Exceptional Populations. Mrs. Finks asked to correspond.

1891
Oct. 21
p. 170

Attention of Executive Committee called to the fact that Freedmen's Board is publishing leaflet.....

When Freedmen's Board became a part of the work of the Executive Committee they were not to issue any leaflets until examined and approved by the Executive Committee. As this had not been seen by the Executive Committee until printed and as it is incorrect--

Moved and carried that leaflet be suppressed as facts are incorrect.

Nov. 10

Freedmen's Bureau (sic). In view of misrepresentation in form of circular by Freedmen's Bureau (sic) disparaging work of Presbyterian Church because Freedmen do not receive their share of church receipts, Mrs. James suggests friendly letter to Mrs. Coulter showing large proportion going to Freedmen's Bureau (sic).

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TRANSACTIONS OF WOMAN'S BOARD AND WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

1899 Sep. 5 p. 287 — Resignation of Mrs. C. E. Coulter, General Secretary for Freedmen.

Mrs. Coulter asks the Woman's Board to confirm appointment of Mrs. F. D. Palmer as General Secretary for Freedmen. It was so voted.

1899 Oct. 3 p. 294 — Letter of Dr. Cowan suggesting that Haines School, Augusta, Georgia, be called Lucy Laney School.

Voted that Woman's Board is "willing", but matter is not under their authority.

1900 May 8 p. 348 — Mrs. Palmer asks: How press the increased work for Freedmen? Through Synodical officers or Freedmen's Presbyterial Societies?

Answer: All avenues used by the Woman's Board are open also to Freedmen's Department.

Moved and carried that we express the hope that Freedmen's Department will work according to our methods of approach, through Synodical channels.

1901 June 25 p. 422 — Matter of "Freedmen's Bulletin" having been referred to Office, Office asks instructions:

After long discussion, moved and carried that if Freedmen take Bulletin as their official organ they do forfeit their privilege of presenting work through columns of Home Mission monthly.

1901 Sep 17 p. 431 — Young People's Societies not auxiliary to us are receiving appeals sent out from Freedmen's Board with letter heads of Woman's Board - appeals not authorized by Woman's Board.

Secretary to write Freedmen's Secretary in reference to it.

1902
Oct 28
p. 491

Mrs. Palmer is sending out letters and appeals to local officers and Young People's secretaries instead of through Secretary for Freedmen.

Request to be made for conference with Mrs. Palmer.

1903
Apr 7
9. 29

Mrs. F. D. Palmer asks to present her resignation and to have her report incorporated with that given at the Annual Meeting.

1904
Nov. 15
p. 155

Request from St. Louis Presbyterial that Mrs. Palmer (Now a Speaker for the Woman's Board) present the needs of Cotton Plant as an adjunct to her other work. Request declined by vote.

1905
Jun 27
p. 223

Mrs. F. D. Palmer appointed Field Secretary for the Northwest.

Dec. 19
p. 266

The Finance Committee and officers of the Woman's Board having been asked to meet to consider questions relating to the Freedmen's Department, the Chairman, Mrs. Honeyman, reported that among the most important questions was that of the division of funds, and made request, for the Committee, that Mrs. James make a statement of the relation of the Woman's Board to the Freedmen's Board.

(I do not find this asked-for statement. R.H.W.)

It was also recommended that a committee consisting of Mrs. Finks, Chairman, Mrs. Grier and Mrs. Bennett outline the policy of the Woman's Board in regard to the Freedmen's work as a definite guide for future action. Report accepted and adopted.

1906
Feb 6
p. 282

Mrs. Finks reports for Committee to outline policy of Woman's Board.

"The policy of the Woman's Board of Home Missions towards the Freedmen's Department of work is that of generous fostering care, consistent with the claims of other classes in fields of work for whose support

the Board is responsible. To promote advance in the Freedmen's Department the Board suggests the election of Synodical and Presbyterial Secretary of Freedmen, whose duties shall be to carry out plans for stimulating interest and gifts, it being distinctly understood that all such plans must first be submitted for approval to the Executive Commitee of the respective organizations - Synodical and Presbyterial.

"Since the Woman's Board does not call for the appointment of local Secretaries for distinctive fields such as Indian, Alaskan, Porto Rican, etc., the election of Secretaries for Freedmen in local societies is not recommended.

"The executive relation of the Freedmen's Department to the Woman's Board requires that conference in relation to synodical apportionment, including all advance and extras, be held between the executive officers of the Woman's Board and the Secretary of the Freedmen's Department of the Woman's Board, in order that proper proportions in the appeals for the respective fields may be sustained". This was accepted and adopted.

1912
Mar. 12

Mrs. W. M. Carr, Synodical President of Catawba Synod, asks that the Board appoint a colored woman who would virtually fill the position of Field Secretary in arousing interest and forming societies among colored women in this and neighboring synods.

Voted to recommend Mrs. Carr to consult Freedmen's Board before the Woman's Board take action on the matter.

EXCERPTS FROM HOME MISSION MONTHLY IN REGARD

TO WORK FOR FREEDMEN.

1898-9
p. 125

Editorial

The Woman's Board of Home Missions receives and transmits to the Board of Freedmen all funds sent to its treasury designated for the Freedmen's work. The relation of the Woman's Board to the Freedmen work differs from that sustained by the Board of Home Missions in that the Woman's Board has no jurisdiction over the school work among the Freedmen.

1902-3
p. 211

From Report of Freedmen's Department, Mrs. V. B. Boggs Acting Secretary:

In presenting to you the Nineteenth Annual Report of the Woman's Department.....The Ladies Committee of our Department - twenty in number - from five different presbyteries, have met from month to month as in previous years to pray for God's blessing upon the work and to consider and promote its interest in every possible.

1904-5
p. 224

From Report of Freedmen's Department, Mrs. V. P. Boggs Secretary:

The Freedmen's Committee, composed of twenty of the elect ladies of Pittsburg, Allegheny and outlying towns, who with the secretaries constitute the Woman's Department of the Freedmen's Board and also the Freedmen's Department of the Woman's Board, continue to meet from month to month.